

should have subjected himself to ridicule if he had signed it, and after presenting this bill, the President had subjected himself to the ridicule of the Democratic party and the scorn of the Whig party. The bill proposed, (said Mr. B.) to modify that clause in relation to bills of exchange as you might, will do no good, and it will place a party in power as long as they choose to remain there. These provisions of time, thirty days, and of miles distance, presented no check which would not make the party who controlled that institution omnipotent.

I hope that the scheme proposed will not even be allowed to be referred to a select committee. I hope the adulterous progeny of Northern Federalism and Virginia abstractionism may be strangled in its very birth.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Patriot.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 10, 1842.

THE ACTION OF CONGRESS UPON THE BANKRUPT BILL—STATE OF FEELING CREATED BY IT—TEMPER OF THE MEMBERS—FIERCING AT THE CAPITOL.

The action of the House of Representatives on Saturday, upon the Bankrupt Bill will be laid before your readers by your reporter. Of the effect of that action you are much better able to judge than your correspondent. From the excitement here, however, in relation to it, it is to be presumed that a ten-fold feeling will be aroused abroad, particularly in those sections of the country where the execution of the Bankrupt Law was looked to as the consummation and fruition of hopes deferred for years. To an observer of the proceedings of Congress, as I have been for many years, I regard it both in the manner of doing, and in the thing done, the most disgraceful records of events that ever dishonored a body of legislators; and I am the more sorry to say this, inasmuch as the proceedings originated with Whigs, were introduced by Whigs, and enforced by Whigs. It is true that the great body of Whigs resisted manfully and promptly all these innovations upon one of the great measures of the extra session. It is true, also, that the locofoco members went nearly en masse with the impracticable Whigs, or by themselves. With three or four exceptions, (but three I believe) the party voted in a solid column, held together now, as ever, by a cohesive power so strong that no other power could hope, even for a moment, to sunder the bond of union. Always, however, ready to take part in the accomplishment of any mischief designed for any purpose, the party were found upon this occasion, as one man, resisting the execution of a law which, for its benefits, (because it became a law by a Whig Congress,) they are desirous to repeal, postpone, or make odious.

Notwithstanding this motive, obvious to every man here who would open his eyes long enough to see the state of things around him, Whig members of Congress, and a score of them, too, I am sorry to say, were found co-operating with the enemy in breaking in upon a law, on the execution of which depended the present and future prospects of thousands and thousands of the American people. It is impossible to realize the extent of mischief accomplished to the Whig party and the country by this one act of mal-administration, especially if no power should come speedily forth to stay the hand of these congressional executioners. Certain I am that the law was the hope and stay, the consolation, and the motive to industry, of thousands of men who looked forward to the first of February as the day of their jubilee. Upon the eve of this long promised jubilee, Congress comes forth like the common hangman on the gallows, and under the terrors of the law, destroys hope and life together.

It is true that this state of things has not yet quite arrived, but so near are they at hand, that I regard the chances of life about as the chances of one sentenced to be executed, and who makes an appeal to the Chief Magistrate of the State or Nation, imploring him for good and sufficient reasons to extend the pardoning power to the condemned. It is hardly possible, but not altogether impossible, that the Bill may be saved from execution. I judge, it is true, alone from the votes on Saturday, but all the votes were test votes, and they vary you see from fifteen to twenty-three. The Committee are not only instructed to bring in a bill to repeal the Bankrupt Law, but in the plenitude of its wisdom and generosity, the majority in the House have seen fit to impose it as a duty upon the Committee to do this by Tuesday next. The Law will then be introduced in brief terms, declaring "the act of September, 1841, establishing a Uniform System of Bankruptcy throughout the United States, hereby repealed." If the legislation should then be as summary as it was on Saturday, the Bill will be acted upon at once, and sent post-haste to the Senate for a like execution there—and what is the disposition there in regard to this measure, you may, perhaps, form an opinion in advance from the action in the Senate in the case of Mr. Benton's Bill, moving a postponement of the operations of the Law until the 1st of July of the present year.

And here a word of the manner of legislation in the House upon this measure. A memorial is introduced by Mr. G. Davis, of Kentucky praying a repeal of the Bankrupt Law. No sooner is it in the possession of the house than Mr. Cravens, of Indiana, moves a commitment, with instructions to report a Bill to repeal the Bankrupt Act, and before taking his seat, and before a member saying a word in favor of the motion and without allowing another member to say a word for or against the motion, THE PREVIOUS QUESTION is sprung! With this motion pending, the House adjourns. The subject is renewed in the morning as unfinished business—the Previous Question is seconded—the main question put—the instructions ordered, and all this as soon as the Clerk of the House can call the yeas and nays. This is but

one scene in the drama, or feature of the farce, for the act is one of dramatic power, and yet farcical for the manner of legislation. Another follows, and here Mr. Marshall, another member from Kentucky, takes the lead. A petition is presented, reference asked, instructions proposed, and the Previous Question moved, all in one breath—and to cap the climax of this Jehu sort of legislation, the instructions contain a clause to report the Bill of Repeal tomorrow. This, however, (merely to favor the Committee) is subsequently amended, so that the Bill shall be reported on Tuesday next.

This was Saturday's work, resisted inch by inch by about ninety Whigs, sustained by the entire Locofoco party, with three or four exceptions, and, finally, carried out by the aid of Whig votes from the West and South, and South-west, in the absence, however, of between thirty and forty members, a large majority of whom, as usual were Whigs and who have little scruples about absenting themselves days and weeks from the House, and less in drawing their per diem during their absence. Some remedy should be found for this, and none, it seems to me, will do so well as to publish the names of the absentees, and to withhold from them their per diem. The one would expose their intention to their constituents, and the other so far affect their own interests as to secure a better observance of the interests of their constituents.

The truth is, as the debate may have shown you, there is a bad temper in the House; and particularly among the members of the Whig party. Divisions exist which few labor to heal. The good of the party, and, as we must infer, if our principles are good, the good of the country, is lost sight of in the individual heart-burnings and bickerings in regard to men. Jealousy, disappointment, dissatisfaction, have taken the place of prudence, wisdom, and before Congress can do any thing for the people, it must learn to undo much for itself. In the excess of feeling which prevails here now, if it is continued, Congress had much better adjourn and go home, where members will find a very different state of things to exist. The great aim of the Locofoco party in Congress is, to compel an undoing of all that has been done by the Whigs since they came into power, and particularly at the extra session of Congress. This done, the party will be held up to public scorn. If it is to be done at all, it will be accomplished by men who, having supported, as in the case of the Bankrupt Bill, a measure at the extra session, now turn round and, without a trial, repeal it.

Out of Congress there is but little to interest your readers. Rumor says that Mr. Clay, in the spirit of an enlarged patriotism, will endeavor to save the Bankrupt Bill in the Senate, and rumor further says also, that in case the Bill to repeal the law should pass Congress, the President will veto the measure. He is understood here to be a fast friend of the law, but whether to the extent of coming to the rescue in this form is very questionable. It is quite probable that Mr. Clay may use his influence in the Senate to save the Bill, and if well exerted by all his friends and all of Mr. Tyler's friends—in a word by all those who gave the bill their support at the extra Session it may yet be saved. In the case of one Senator and perhaps two, however, instructions are feared, and this, as the majority was then small, might lead to a consummation of the unexpected action of the House.

#### THE FIFTH WEEK OF THE SESSION

Has passed away without the accomplishment of any important object by Congress; no bill having yet passed both Houses but the partial appropriation bill. Nothing has been done, nor has there been any step taken, beyond the report of the two bills by the Committee of Ways and Means, towards providing for the deficit in the ways and means, which is of course every day increasing by the demands which the opening of the first quarter of the year accumulates against the Treasury. A Government with such vast resources, and so many titles to high credit as that of the United States, may, perhaps, afford to trifle with its credit; but the expediency of doing so may well be doubted. The pride of the majority, who are responsible for the continuance of this state of things, should, one would think, be stirred to prompt action by the undisguised clucking of the opposition at the poverty of the Treasury, which is owing, after all, entirely to their own neglect, before going out of power, to provide the means for paying the debt with which they themselves had saddled their successors. Prompt action on the part of the Whigs would turn to mourning the mirth of their opponents.

In the Senate, the report upon the Fiscal Agency is still upon the anvil, or rather in the furnace, in which it is severely tried, by blasts hot and cold, before being ready for the anvil. Our anticipation is, that the debate will not be much further prolonged on the question of reference; that the Treasury plan will go to a select committee, and that, with such modifications as the developments in debate may have suggested, it will be presented for the main discussion in the Senate with features differing in some respects from those in which it came from the hands of the Executive. That it will ever be wrought in any shape to secure the sanction of both Houses of Congress is very doubtful, but not, we rather think, wholly to be despair of.

The proceedings of both Houses on minor matters, during the two last weeks, have been given by our reporters so much in detail, and with so much particularity, that we need not here repeat them.

The only two questions of general consequence which have been agitated and decided in the House of Representatives are, first, the reference of the question of revenue, as connected with Manufactures, to the Committee on Manufactures—by

which it seems to be understood as the expressed opinion of the House that the State of the Manufactures of the country, as well as the wants of the Treasury, are to be taken into consideration in the general revision of the duties upon imports; and secondly, the instruction given by the vote of Saturday last to the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to repeal the Bankrupt Law, which our readers will recollect, though passed at the last Session of Congress, has not yet gone into effect.

The vote looking to the repeal of the Bankrupt Law has, we confess, overcome us with surprise at its suddenness, and with apprehension for its consequences. To this measure, in connexion with the Land Distribution and Pre-emption Law, we had pointed with triumph as the two great pillars of Whig policy, of which the third was to be, and we have yet a faint hope is to be, the restoration (as far as practicable) of a sound currency. We could not bring ourselves to believe, though threatened in the Senate, that there was any serious design in Congress to repeal that beneficent act, which has called down upon the heads of its authors more of that incense the savor of which ascends to heaven, than any measure ever passed by Congress. We sympathize most deeply in the anguish with which this indication in the House of Representatives will wring the breasts of many thousands of helpless women and children, who have fondly looked to the disenthralment of their natural protectors by a process which, upon all the consideration that we have been able to bestow upon it, is to our mind no less just and wise than it is humane and provident. We shudder at the thought of the utter desolation which the consummation of the proposed repeal would bring upon hearth long wretched and forlorn, but upon which the benignant promise held out by the Bankrupt act had at last shed reviving and consoling beams of hope and joy. We most earnestly hope that we may be spared the spectacle of such an affliction the depth and extent of which may be pictured in the imagination, but which no pen nor tongue could ever describe.

We do not, of course, pretend to arraign the votes of individual members on this question of the proposed repeal of the Bankrupt Law. They are acting under a high responsibility, and in a conscientious spirit, some, doubtless, under supposed instructions from their immediate constituents.—If we could presume to address any argument to them, we should urge that it might have been expected, as more conformable to usage as well as to reason, that a law, sanctioned in terms by the Constitution, passed with the consent of all branches of the Government, (under circumstances which have since undergone no change) ought to undergo a fair trial before it is doomed. This privilege, which is allowed to the most abandoned malefactor, ought not, surely, to be denied by Congress to its own offspring. Let us have the verdict of public opinion upon it before it is condemned. That opinion has not been ascertained by any process to be relied upon, and, according to all the information that has reached us, is altogether more favorable than adverse to the law. Obdurate creditors there may be, who, not content with obtaining all that men can pay, would yet hold their miserable debtors in bondage for life. Imprecations upon the Bankrupt law may be hurled by such men; but how feeble ought not to be their denunciations against the force of reason and the mark of intellect which confound all the laws and sophisms and dispel the darkness of the barbarism of past ages, under which not only the debtor, but the debtor's family, his wife and children, were condemned to servitude and penury for life, to atone for the misfortune of debt which it was impossible that he should ever be able to pay! May our legislators, when seriously meditating further legislation of this subject, ever bear in mind that

Early power doth then show nearest God's,  
When Mercy seasons Justice!

#### CINCINNATI MOIL

The following from the Cincinnati Gazette of Wednesday, 12th inst., appears to be an unvarnished and candid account of the demolition of a few of the banks of that city:

"Monday evening, the Miami Exporting Company Bank assigned its effects, and on yesterday morning the Bank of Cincinnati closed doors."

Early in the morning the crowd, in consequence of their failures, began to collect around the doors of these institutions, and by 11 o'clock had broken into them, destroying all the moveable property and whatever of books or papers could be laid hold of.

About this time ten of the City Guards, headed by their brave Captain, Mitchell, appeared, drove the rioters away, and, for a time, gallantly maintained their position. But they were called off. On retiring they were assailed; they fired, and wounded some one or two persons.

The mob had with this exception undisturbed possession of the city, and commenced an attack first upon Bates' Exchange Bank, and after that upon Louisa's Exchange Office, both of which they destroyed making havoc of every thing which was at all destructible.

The City Council met at 12 o'clock. But they were unable, as we learn, to pass an ordinance for the preservation of the public peace, eleven votes being necessary for this purpose, in consequence of only eleven members being present, and one of that number voting against it. All that could be done was then done, viz: to pass an order appropriating five hundred dollars to defray expenses in employing an extra police.

The citizens organized at 4 o'clock, and put themselves in strong force near the scene of the disorder. No further violence has been committed, and we hope from appearances, at the time our paper was put to press, that none will be attempted. The good of citizens was under the direction of Sheriff Ayers, and Marshall Sadler.

The causes of the public excitement were great. It is enough to disturb any people when men deliberately set to work to prey upon their necessities, and swindle the poor and the needy among them out of their honest means. But nothing will justify lawlessness. It must be checked peaceably if possible, but forcibly if nothing but force will answer.

ANOTHER MOB IN OHIO.—The Cincinnati Gazette publishes the following letter:—  
Macon, Jan. 2, 1842.

Yesterday we had quite a riot in our city. Our council had passed an ordinance that no man should vote who had not paid his taxes.

Yesterday the election for city officers was held. A number of gamblers presented themselves at the polls to vote. They were refused.

At 4 o'clock the polls closed: After the crowd had dispersed and the managers had retired, these desperadoes burst into their room, armed with pistols and bowie knives, seized the ballot box, scattered the votes everywhere, and broke to pieces the furniture, windows, &c.

The police soon gathered, and I am happy to say, arrested five of the scoundrels.—The ringleader escaped, a reward of \$500 is offered for him, and I think he will be caught.

#### LATEST FROM TEXAS.

The Picayune, at New Orleans, has Galveston dates to the 5th January. The news is not important. The Picayune says—

All the papers contain General Houston's Message. One or two copies of it were received by the last packet, but we could never ascertain what became of them. The document is remarkable for its brevity, lack of circumlocution, and distinctness. With regard to financial matters, the President says there is not a dollar in the treasury, that the national debt is from ten to fifteen millions, and that the government is not only without money, but without credit, and, for want of punctuality, without character. He recommends a total suspension of the redemption of the liabilities of the republic, and likewise that the law authorizing the assessment of double taxes be repealed; that the direct tax be reduced one half, and that all taxes heretofore assessed be receivable only in gold and silver, or paper of unquestionable character, the receiving officer to be responsible for its value. He further recommends that all dues and duties which may hereafter accrue to the government be paid in gold and silver, or equivalent currency.

For the purpose of raising funds to meet present emergencies, he urges the issue of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars of new paper, the payment to be guaranteed by one million acres of Cherokee lands.

The following appointments have been made by the President:

Hon. Anson Jones, Secretary of State.  
Hon. K. L. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury.

Col. Hockley, Secretary of War.  
Major A. Brigham, Treasurer.

From the New Orleans Bulletin, Jan. 11th.

If any reliance may be placed upon current rumors, Santa Anna is making preparations for another invasion of Texas. The report seems to us improbable—but if it turns out to be true, this much appears to us to be quite certain, that Santa Anna will not head the expedition. Dear bought experience has convinced him of the inexpediency of keeping his person on the Western side of the Rio del Norte. It is very likely, too, that other Mexicans will feel a timidity in crossing the same boundary, retaining as they still do a vivid recollection of the events of San Jacinto. We shall never credit the report of a second invasion, without the most indubitable evidence of the fact. The Mexicans cannot certainly be so inflated in vain glorious boasting, as to dream of the possibility of reconquering Texas. The rumors on the subject are easily accounted for, without supposing that any intention such as is ascribed to Santa Anna, is seriously entertained.

That ambitious politician and chieftain still feels sore on account of his past defeat and humiliation. He burns, no doubt, to wipe out the disgrace. But knowing this to be impossible he would deceive the Mexican people, and make them believe it to be his intention once more to try his fortune, in retrieving what was lost, by the late defeat in Texas. For this purpose reports may be circulated of the march of troops and munitions of war to the frontiers, and other preparations, indicating a meditated descent in the direction of the Sabine. Such manoeuvres may do well enough to amuse the idle and ignorant population of Mexico, and to inflate the ephemeral glory of his favorite hero. But beyond that limit nothing further can be done. There is too much of discord and dissension at home to think of conquest abroad. Yucatan is yet unsubdued, and other provinces are in an unsettled state approaching to rebellion. Santa Anna is just installed in the Executive chair and has not yet had time to consolidate his power and secure domestic union and quiet.

The attempt would be the height of folly at any time, but more especially at the present crisis. Under all circumstances our decided opinion is, that an invasion of Texas is not now seriously meditated by Mexico.

The New York Tribune, appealing to all classes of citizens to come forward and sign memorials to Congress against the proposed repeal of the Bankrupt Law, requests of them to "bear in mind that a BANKRUPT LAW ABOLISHES NO DEBTS, (though the contrary has often been untrue asserted) it simply declares that when the creditors have received the last farthing of a debtor's property, the legal remedy against him is exhausted," and not till then.

#### From the N. York Express.

The Whigs of the country, if not satisfied with the vetoes of President Tyler, will soon be less satisfied with a Whig Congress that in a factious spirit, rejects all conciliation, or compromise for a settlement of the currency question. The harsh abuse of Mr. Barrow in the Senate, not only of Mr. Tyler, but of the whole cabinet, makes its impressions upon the country. His speech has shocked the public mind as an indication of Whig feeling in the United States Senate. Gen. Harrison called Mr. Webster into the Cabinet. His crime is, he did not leave the post Gen. Harrison on his death bed left him! Gen. Harrison made Mr. Forward Comptroller of the Treasury.—Mr. Tyler promoted him. His crime is, he accepted the promotion, and did not, perhaps leave that vastly important office to fall into Loco Foco hands! The Whigs of New York, who bearded Van Burenism at home, complimented John C. Spencer with one of their most dignified and trustworthy posts. His crime was that under the advice of Whig friends, he left New York to serve in Washington. The Whigs of Kentucky had the highest confidence in Mr. Wickliffe of Kentucky. He was called to Washington, and he makes an excellent Post Master General there. But there seems to be crime in that! The secretary of the Navy may be said to be the only one of the President's own selection or creation. We feared him as an impracticable abstract man, utterly unfit for the Navy Department, but in his admirable report, how has he surprised all!

Now, Mr. Barrow, a Whig in the Senate, personally attacks such a Cabinet as that! What can we call it but factious opposition! What does the party that follows in such a train seem in the public eye to be but a faction? The Loco Focos have the wisdom to speak with respect, but from one of our own Senators, are personal sarcasm and insult!

We might now, if patriotism was not a worn out word in Washington, address ourselves to the patriotism of the governing party in Congress. Patriotism, however, is never a worn out word with some noble spirits there. Mr. Clay has often saved the country in such a period as this. His gallant mind must soar above the rage of faction about him. It is within his power, with his magic wand, to stay the elements of confusion there. The country invokes his action, as it has often before, and never in vain. He reserves himself, we see, from the contention about him, to come in, we hope, when the master spirit can appease the storm.

#### THE CHANGES OF FASHION.

Changes of Fashion are oppressive to the poor. Dr. Franklin once remarked that "it is the eyes of other people that run us.—If all were blind but me, I should neither want fine houses, fine furniture, nor fine clothes."

The desire to appear well in the eyes of others, is rarely measured by the depth of the purse. The waiting girl will not unfrequently spend two months' wages for a new bonnet, only because her old one is out of fashion. This is oppression. Is it expected that her nature is so much superior to that in higher life that she can consent to single herself out from the world by being old fashioned?

The superintendent of the House of Refugees in Boston has said, that the love of fashionable dress was the most efficient cause of the degradation and misery of the young females of that city. On this fact Miss Sedgwick very justly remarks, "It is to be so, should not the reformation begin among the educated and reflecting? How can a lady whose presses are teeming with French laces, enjoy simplicity and economy on her domestics?"

New fashions are oppressive to the families in the common walks of life.

In a large family it is felt to an alarming and ruinous degree. Often would the penniless widow and orphans have been left with a comfortable maintenance, had not the changes of Fashion swept all before them.

The influence of fashion is not only made to subserve the vanity of the gay—but so enslaving is it in its operations, that even a visit from the king of terrors cannot be received, without consulting the annals of Fashion to find in what dress we should receive him. The tears of the widow are for a while dried away, although no words of consolation can assuage her grief, when she consults with her dress-maker on the fashion for her mourning garments; and often, when the amount left by the frugal care of a beloved husband for the support of his widow and children has been scanty, has a large proportion of that pittance, in obedience to the mandates of Fashion, been devoted to the purchase of unnecessary clothes which under a better regulation of the public sentiment might have been dispensed with, and her children supplied with bread.

To abstain from the sable garments on the death of a relative, is thought by many to show a want of respect for the departed.—This, however, is only the effect of an arbitrary fashion. There is nothing in black real mournful more than any other color. The beau in his black suit has not so mournful an appearance as the Quaker in his drab. Some writer has remarked that in China the mourning is white; in Turkey, blue or violet; in Egypt, yellow; in Ethiopia, brown; "Each people pretend to have their reasons for the particular color of their mourning, white is supposed to denote purity; yellow death is the end of human hopes—for the leaves when they fall, and the flowers when they fade, turn yellow; brown denotes the earth, whither the dead return; blue expresses the happiness which it is hoped the deceased ones enjoy; and purple or violet, sorrow on one side, and hope on the other, as being a mixture of black and blue."

In a dress devoid of vanity, the dead can be as much respected in one color as another.

That servility to foreign Fashion and useless expenditure in dress, were repugnant to the principles of those who were the framers of our government, we have direct testimony in the formal expression of every member of the first Revolutionary Congress.

On the 20th of October, 1774, Congress unanimously agreed to certain articles of association, which were signed by every member of that illustrious body, in those articles they pledged themselves, that "On the death of a relation or friend, none of us, or any of our families will go into any further mourning dress than a black crape or ribbon on the arm, or hat for gentlemen—and will discountenance the giving of gloves or scarfs at funerals."

This was the spirit of those who declared the independence of our country—they not only desired that the heavy chains of foreign despotism should be thrown off—but also that the fascinating golden links which bound us insensibly to the trappings of foreign courts, and like the flesh pots of Egypt create an insatiable longing to return—should at once be broken—that the principle of true independence, alike of foreign laws and fashions, might be extended in a land of professed freedom.

This attempt of the members of the Revolutionary Congress to overturn the despotism of Fashion was not a mere formality—their agreement was carried into practice and was also followed by many of their successors.

NEWSPAPERS.—A child beginning to read becomes delighted with a newspaper, because he reads of names and things that are familiar. A newspaper in one year, says Mr. Weeke, is worth a quarters schooling to a child, and every thing must consider that substantial information, is connected with his advancement. The mother of the family being one of its heads and having a more immediate charge of children, ought to be intelligent in mind, pure in language, and always cheerful and circumspect. As the instructor of her children, she should herself be instructed.

A mind occupied, becomes fortified against the ills of life, and is braced for any emergency. Children amused by reading and study, are of course considerate and more easily governed.

How many thoughtless young men have spent their evenings in a tavern or grogshop which ought to be devoted to reading? how many parents have never spent twenty dollars for books for their families, would gladly have given thousands to reclaim a son and daughter who had ignorantly and thoughtlessly fallen into temptation.

NO TIME TO READ.—We have often encountered men who profess to believe they have no time to read. Now we think of it, there have always been men of such characters, the points of which are easily summed up.

Nine times out of ten they are men who have not found time to confer any substantial advantage either upon their families or themselves.

They generally have time to attend public barbecues, camp-meetings, sales, and singing schools, but they have "no time to read."

They frequently spend whole days in gossiping, tiling, and swapping horses, but they have "no time to read."

They sometimes lose a day asking advice of their neighbors; sometimes a day in picking up the news, the price current and the exchange, but these men have never "time to read."

They have time to hunt, to fish to fiddle, to drink to—do nothing, but "no time to read."

Such men generally have uneducated children, unimproved farms and unhappy firesides. They have no energy; no spirit of improvement; no love of knowledge; the live "unknowing and unknown," often die unwept and unregretted.

MILEAGE.—Members of Congress receive from the public Treasury, 40 cents per mile, or \$8 for every 20 miles for travelling expenses. We believe that is the amount. This is outrageous, in these times when travelling is so rapid and cheap. A member of Congress pays \$4 to travel from Philadelphia to Baltimore—90 miles, and draws \$36 for mileage! He pays \$30 for travelling from New Orleans to Pittsburg by steamboat—say 2000 miles, and the time occupied is not ten days—he draws \$800! This is robbing the people with a vengeance. Some members take the most circuitous route that their mileage may be increased; a member travelling 200 miles a day he makes \$80 dollars! A pretty round sum. Some members charge 2000 or 4000 dollars mileage annually! Admitting that the per diem of members of Congress is not too high, who will justify these exorbitant allowances for mileage? What excuse can be offered for them? If none, then why does not some honest friend of economy propose and urge the reform upon Congress. The present rates of mileage were fixed years ago, when travelling was expensive, tedious and dangerous. In this day of railroads and steamboats, the cause of high travelling expenses are removed, and mileage should consequently be reduced. We hope Congress will reform this shameful abuse.—Village (Pa) Record.

THE EFFECT OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPT ACT ON LEASES.—It is important for the safety of lessors, that leases hereafter made should make provision for the bankruptcy of the lessee, as on such an event his estate and interest in the premises will pass to his assignees, if they chose to accept it, and not otherwise; if they do accept it, they may transfer it to whom they please—even to a beggar—and the assignees will not remain responsible for rent after such transfer.

It is insufficient and immaterial that the original law contains a special clause, avoiding the lease if the lessee should underlet, &c., because such a clause applies only to voluntary transfers by the lessee, and not to assignments by the act of law. Such a clause will not prevent the interest of the lessee from passing to his assignees, in bankruptcy, nor restrict them in the disposal of it.